

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 EA-07 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-03 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-01 SS-14 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 L-02

H-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-02

LAB-01 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 093704

O R 111533Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3129

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24102

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, VN, LA

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SUBJECT: INDOCHINA AID DONORS' MEETING, OCT 17

REF: STATE 223656

1. SUMMARY: ON OCT 11, WE OUTLINED TO ASSISTANT TREASURY DIRECTOR NEBOT US SUGGESTION THAT UNICEF SHOULD BE ASKED TO ACCEPT TASK OF APPROACHING NORTH VIETNAM RE FOLLOW-UP MEETING. WHILE APPRECIATING OUR EFFORT TO FIND COMPROMISE, NEBOT, MAKING PRELIMINARY AND PERSONAL COMMENT, WONDERED WHETHER THIS FORMULA WOULD MEET FRENCH CONCERN FOR "EVEN-HANDED" TREATMENT OF SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM. HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF ASKING A DONOR GOVT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS MATTER, INCLUDING POSSIBLY FRANCE. HE WILL REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO TREASURY DIRECTOR LAROSIERE AND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, WITH OBJECTIVE OF GETTING COORDINATED FRENCH POSITION FOR COOPER-EDMOND VISIT ON OCT 15. LAROSIERE WILL MEET WITH COOPER AND EDMOND AT 11:30 A.M. ON THAT DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCT 11, WE OUTLINED TO NEBOT, ASSISTANT TREASURY DIRECTOR (EXTERNAL BILATERAL RELATIONS) IN FRENCH FINANCE MINISTRY, US REACTION, CONTAINED PARA 5 REFTEL, TO FRENCH SUGGESTION THAT ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SHOULD BE ASKED EXPLORE FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR NORTH VIETNAM

3. NEBOT SAID FRENCH WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT OUR IDEA OF ASSIGNING TO UNICEF, RATHER THAN ADB, TASK OF APPROACHING NORTH VIETNAM. IN PARTICULAR, GIVEN POLITICAL ASPECTS OF MATTER, HE WOULD HAVE TO GO OVER GROUND CAREFULLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. HOWEVER, HE WOULD OFFER FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY AND PERSONAL COMMENTS AS INDICATION OF POSSIBLE FRENCH REACTION:

(A) IT IS GRATIFYING THAT US POSITION MAKES POSITIVE EFFORT TO MEET FRENCH CONCERN THAT THERE BE "SYMMETRY" IN TREATMENT OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

(B) FRANCE CERTAINLY DID NOT INSIST THAT ADB BE DESIGNATED TO TAKE INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO NORTH VIETNAM. NEBOT HAD ONLY MADE THIS SUGGESTION, BECAUSE IT SEEMED MOST PROMISING WAY TO ENSURE "SYMMETRY" OF TREATMENT, TO WHICH FRANCE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE.
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(C) WHILE APPRECIATING US SUGGESTION THAT UNICEF SHOULD BE ASKED TO ACCEPT THE MANDATE, NEBOT WONDERED IF THIS REALLY WAS ENOUGH. SITUATION WHERE UNICEF ACTED ONLY AS MESSENGER, WITH NO INDICATION OF WHO WOULD CHAIR EVENTUAL NORTH VIETNAM MEETING, MIGHT RESULT IN UNFAVORABLE COMPARISON WITH TREATMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, WHERE PRESUMABLY IBRD WOULD BOTH TAKE LEAD IN ORGANIZING

MEETING AND CHAIRING IT.

(D) CITING CASE OF INDONESIA, WHERE NETHERLANDS GOVT HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORGANIZING DONOR MEETINGS AND CHAIRING THEM, NEBOT WONDERED WHETHER ONE OF THE DONOR GOVTS MIGHT NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING MEETING TO NORTH VIETNAM AND EVENTUALLY PRESIDING. HE SUGGESTED SWEDEN MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE. WE SAID IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES WITH SWEDEN IN OCT 17 DONOR MEETING OVER QUESTION OF WHAT FOLLOW-UP THERE SHOULD BE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM, AND THAT, THEREFORE, WE WONDERED ABOUT ADVISABILITY, OR EVEN FEASIBILITY, OF TRYING TO INVOLVE SWEDEN IN COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT, DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO ALLOW MATTERS TO MOVE FORWARD AS REGARDS BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM. NEBOT THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH

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FOREIGN MINISTRY, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY THAT FRANCE MIGHT TAKE ON ASSIGNMENT, IF IT SEEMED ONLY WAY TO SATISFY THEIR OVERRIDING CONCERN FOR "SYMMETRY."

4. WE TOLD NEBOT THAT COOPER AND EDMOND WOULD BE IN PARIS ON MORNING OF OCT 15 FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS AND THAT, PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS, WE HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR THEM TO SEE LAROSIERE. WE ASKED NEBOT TO REPORT TO LAROSIERE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH HIM AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD HAVE COORDINATED FRENCH REACTION TO OUR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AT TIME OF COOPER-EDMOND VISIT.

5. LAROSIERE HAS PROPOSED 11:30 A.M. ON OCT 15 FOR MEETING WITH COOPER AND EDMOND. HIS OFFICE INFORMS US THIS IS ONLY FREE TIME IN HIS SCHEDULE ON THAT MORNING. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE ACCEPTED. THIS WILL ENTAIL LEAVING DIRECTLY FOR AIRPORT FROM LAROSIERE'S OFFICE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT NEBOT WILL PARTICIPATE IN MEETING WITH LAROSIERE, AND POSSIBLY ALSO HABERER, DEPUTY TREASURY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WHO MAY HEAD FRENCH DELEGATION TO DONORS MEETING.
IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS24102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-1151
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741052/aaaabsjh.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 223656
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINA AID DONORS' MEETING, OCT 17
TAGS: EFIN, VN, LA, UNICEF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005